

## THE GARDEN ISLAND

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Editor

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## The War With Mexico

War with Mexico, which Americans have had warmed over for breakfast every morning for ten or twelve years, seems at last to be a reality. It is next to impossible that a compromise can now be effected, for America has already stood the limit of insults from the brigand government and people of the southern republic; and no matter what Wilson may think or try to do it is doubtful that the people of the United States will stand for any farther delay in clearing out the reign of anarchy along the border. The next move of an overt character on the part of Mexico will so stir the people of America that the government will find itself as powerless to hold back as did the peace-loving McKinley in 1898—even should it wish to do so.

That the United States will be able in time to establish peace in Mexico no one outside of Mexico itself, perhaps, doubts; but the war will be no such easy task as was met with in the case of Spain in 1898. The Mexicans are probably the hardest and most experienced bushwhackers on earth today, and that will doubtless be their method of warfare. In a conflict with them more Americans will bite the dust in a single battle than were killed in the entire war with Spain, and the total loss in men in the first few months of war will be such as to stir the nation to as great activity as followed the first battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861. It is easily possible that an additional army of a half million men will have to be raised and sent into Mexico before the situation can be gotten in hand.

The direct effect of the war upon us here will doubtless be small, unless, indeed, some other country should act ugly as a result of it. It is quite probable that a portion, at least, of the regular army on Oahu will be ordered to Mexico and in that case portions, or maybe all, of the National Guard regiments in the outer islands may be taken to Schofield and Fort Shafter. That would hardly be done, however, unless danger from some other source than Mexico threatened.

## The President's Peace Proposals

The recent utterances of President Wilson regarding peace in Europe and a combination of nations for the preservation of peace thereafter in the world resulted in scarcely any comment regarding the first section of the proposal but a very great deal, in magazines and newspapers throughout the United States, in respect to the second part of the suggestion. The reason for this may have been that the President outlined no plan for bringing about peace in Europe, and the country felt that there was little use in further discussing a task which seems so unpromising as yet.

In suggesting, however, the participation of America in a combination of nations to prevent war in the future the President proposed a radical and startling departure from the traditional policy of the United States. The admonition of George Washington to the nation whose independence he had done so much to establish was: "Avoid entangling alliances;" and that caution has been religiously borne in mind by our country ever since. Of course this would really be an alliance of a new kind—surely not of the sort in the mind of The Father Of His Country at the time of his famous utterance. But it would mean the end of American isolation and aloofness from the affairs of other nations. We would no longer attend to our own business alone, as we have done in the past, but the affairs of Europe, of Asia and of other continents would become our affairs, and we would be forced, whether we wished to or not, to take a hand therein.

The Monroe Doctrine, which America has maintained for nearly a hundred years, would become an absurdity, for surely the United States could not expect to maintain it and at the same time interfere in the squabbles and troubles and problems of Europe and Asia. It would be a case of one thing or the other right from the jump, and once such a combination were entered into the Monroe Doctrine would have to go.

We are quite aware that opinions on the mainland regarding this latter proposal of the President is divided, great Republican editors taking opposite views one from the other and Democratic papers likewise varying in their expressions. Our opinion is that the President has proposed something that the American people, when once they understand it thoroughly, will not endorse.

## The Case Of The Browns

By stretching a point and assuming that the "Brown case" was of sufficient magnitude and importance to engage the time and attention of a staid and practical business body like the Chamber of Commerce, we would like to say that in referring the whole matter to a committee for full investigation and report the proper course was taken. There has been a great deal of talk about this case, and many contradictory reports have been flying around. The Chamber of Commerce has acted hastily on propositions before, and on at least one occasion in the past eighteen months erred on account of not being in possession of all the facts when motions or resolutions were adopted. Mistakes of that sort are costly, for the reason that they lessen confidence in the clear judgment and wisdom of the Chamber, and militate against its power and usefulness; and we feel quite pleased that the pace for a new and sounder policy has been set.

In pursuing its investigations we would like to say that the place for the committee's work is at Honolulu. As we understand the matter, what is wanted is the reason [or reasons, as the case may be] for the elimination by the Department of Education of the Browns from the list of school teachers of this island. Some of the facts may be in the possession of persons here, but dribbles will not satisfy. Let the committee go to the fountain head. The facts are presumably all there, and it is reasonable to suppose that the Department would supply a duly qualified committee, such as the one that has been appointed, with all the information it may require. Entirely too much personal feeling over this matter has been developed and shown to leave much room for hope that anything like correct conclusions are possible from a purely local investigation, and now that the Chamber has gone so far as to take the subject up, let us have the basic facts.

## Our School System

Criticism of the administrative part of the educational system of Hawaii will come as a severe jolt to our lawmakers and to a great many other people who for years have held quite the opposite opinion. Comparisons with other States show that, for ten or fifteen years at least, Hawaii has had nothing to be ashamed of in the matter of results from her schools. Surely the general system has been a good one or the results which are to be noted at every hand would have been impossible.

Before the present system was put into effect practically all of the business of the department was conducted from Honolulu. The outer islands had nothing to say in regard to their schools. Since then each island has been given a commissioner whose duty it is to represent the schools of his island in the department. A travelling inspector, representing the department direct, visits the schools of the outer districts much as was required of the superintendent years ago; while the superintendent also duplicates the tours of the superintendents of those former times. In addition to all this, each island has a supervising principal, the duties of whom are well understood.

Taking it all in all, the system seems to be a very good one. Objection to an official, or officials, having its administration in charge should not be levelled at the system itself, unless, indeed, that system is directly and absolutely responsible for incompetents in office

which has not been shown. Criticism of the judgment of the appointing power might be in order, but that opens into a wider range of the subject.

However, we want the best, whatever it is; and if the committee of the Chamber of Commerce appointed to interview the next Legislature on the subject succeeds in bringing forth a better system than we now have their services will undoubtedly be appreciated throughout the Islands.

## Filipinoes And The N. G. H.

Sheriff Rice States to THE GARDEN ISLAND that no member of the National Guard was directly or indirectly involved in the Filipino homicides which jarred this community a few days ago. He states further that, on the other hand, Filipino members of the Guard were the first to step forward and volunteer assistance to the police department in bringing the accused men within reach of the law, and that their services in working up evidence has been most valuable.

These statements are interesting, for they bear out information obtained by this paper sometime ago to the effect that the National Guard had done much to bring out the better points of Filipino character. Joining the Guard seems to have definitely aligned the Filipinoes in the plantations on the side of law and order, and when once in the companies they not only behave themselves but encourage others to do so.

We do not know what observations, if any, have been made on the other islands along this line, nor have we any positive assurance that the good influence of the Guard on the habits of the Filipino will continue; but certainly an excellent start seems to have been made.

## The Warrior Candidate

Our likes, dislikes and opinions in these Islands regarding the presidential election cut about as much ice as the views of a salamander on the European war, for which reason we seldom bore our readers with them. The Mexican crisis, however, constrains us to refer to the position of Mr. Roosevelt as rather unique just now. Should war come (which is now next to a certainty) the United States would almost without doubt lose a lot of men at the start. The American people would be immensely wrought up over it. And who would get the blame? Wilson, of course.

Mr. Hughes is not a fighting man. He is of a judicial turn of mind, much as was Taft and, if you please, as is Wilson.

Roosevelt, on the other hand, has the reputation of being a soldier and a fighter. See the point?

THE COMMISSION appointed to draft a constitution and laws to make of the Civic Convention a permanent institution has adopted a plan which will meet the situation admirably. It is a combination of the ideas of Messrs. E. N. Deyo, of Hilo, and Raymond C. Brown, of Honolulu, to whom quite all the credit for the hard work is due. While the plan is all right, the question still lingers as to whether or not the Civic Convention should be formally organized and ribbed about with hard and fast laws. Undoubtedly a number of delegates to the forthcoming convention in Hilo will oppose the whole scheme, and will argue that much of the success of the affair in the past has been due to its spontaneous and unbridled character; although it must be admitted that that condition of things cannot go on indefinitely. We confess that we are still *kanalua* on the proposition, although perfectly satisfied with the constitution and laws prepared by the commission, if permanent organization is to be finally decided upon.

KAUAI SCORED BIG when the Board of Supervisors and Chamber of Commerce obtained the consent of Major Wm. Henry Rice to serve as the member of the Hawaii Promotion Committee from this island. Major Rice is far and away the best available man the island could possibly have in the committee, and the only reason he was not sought out before was the supposition that, owing to quite heavy official and private business responsibilities, he would not have the time to spare for this important public duty. Kauai has had excellent service from the two predecessors of Major Rice, but they have both labored under the disadvantage of not being residents of the island and as a consequence not able to be at all times in close touch with its ideas and wishes.

AN INVESTIGATION made by officials of California into the farming prospects in that state to which Portuguese of these Islands have been recently sent by a Honolulu agent has resulted in an official report which shows that the land offered the prospective settlers is of little or no value for agricultural or kindred purposes. In the opinion of the California officials the whole scheme was to get the Portuguese into the district, where they would be stranded and would be forced to work as laborers in neighboring sections of California for established plantations. In the light of this information it is gratifying that not very many Kauai Portuguese accepted the bait offered them sometime ago.

TEN CASES of typhoid fever in the same locality near Nawiliwili in the course of a few months indicates an established source of infection in that immediate vicinity. If efforts were made upon the discovery of the first two cases to eradicate the cause, it is plain that those efforts were not successful; and very energetic measures are now called for. It is reasonable to suppose that the infected area is now greatly enlarged and a general clean-up of the district may be necessary. Typhoid has never proved a serious matter on Kauai in the past, but it is one of those diseases that must be stamped out before it has time to get a fair start.

THE RETIREMENT of Captain Richard N. Oliver from the management of the Waimea hotel, after seven years of conspicuous service there, is a matter of general concern and regret. Much of the success of the Waimea hotel has been due to the personal activities of the manager and his popularity with the travelling public. Not only the Waimea section but the entire island will wish for Captain Oliver even greater success in the automobile business which he will take up at the first of the coming month.

THE SPECTACLE of more than a hundred thousand National Guardsmen responding immediately to the President's call to arms must have been a great surprise to Dictator Carranza, of Mexico, who had been led to suppose that the United States had no army to speak of. The latest official reports show that Mexico has only 86,000 men equipped and ready for service, and these are scattered. America's first card on the table is probably a rather startling trump below the Rio Grande.

CITIZENS ARE themselves responsible for bad governmental systems and laws. The remedy is at the polls. We have primaries soon and voters with ideas for the betterment of conditions should have an understanding with candidates before they are balloted for. The practice of neglecting the primaries and complaining afterward is not a good one.

THE MAN RESPONSIBLE for the old roof on the county building sends word that there was nothing the matter with it. We are quite ready to admit that there was nothing the matter with it except that it leaked, and some of the people having offices on the second floor were mean enough to object to being washed out once in a while.

THE AMATEUR THEATRICALS and kindred entertainments which Lihue has recently been enjoying form an interesting and happy departure. The change from the regular order of things has been healthful, and we are hopeful of another season of the same when the Summer vacation is over.

CLEAN UP the infected district near Nawiliwili. If the health authorities require men or money, either or both should be speedily forthcoming. Typhoid fever, which is very nearly epidemic, can be stamped out there only by removing the cause.

THE SECOND BATTALION of the Fourth Infantry made a fine showing at Kapaa Sunday, and Major McBryde has every reason to feel satisfied with the work of his companies after so few months of training.

A MAJORITY of the homicide and murderous assault cases we have had among Filipino laborers lately were probably taken into the camps in jugs.

## Nawiliwili Garage

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